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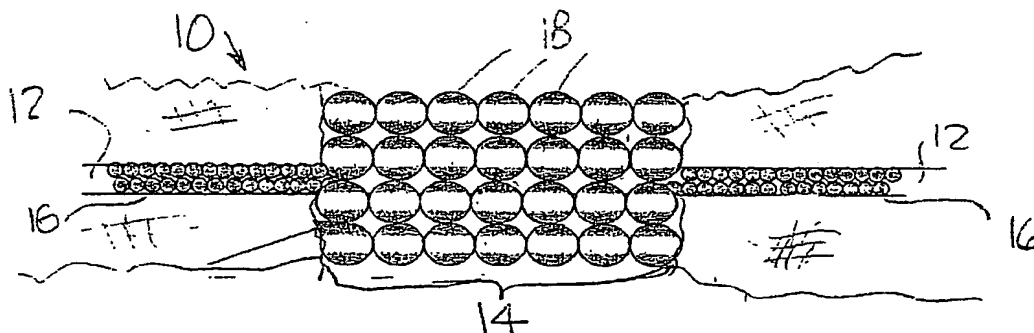
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(54) Title: METHOD OF TREATING SUBTERRANEAN FORMATIONS TO ENHANCE HYDROCARBON PRODUCTION USING PROPPANTS



(57) Abstract: A method of enhancing the flow of hydrocarbon fluids from small flow conduits (12) in a subterranean reservoir rock formation (10) that have traditionally not been propped in association with a fracturing treatment of the formation (10), the method including the steps of introducing a first pressurized fluid into the formation at a pressure that is sufficient to expand the pre-existing small flow conduits (12) and introducing into the pressure-expanded small flow conduits (12) a first portion of a relatively small particulate propping agent (16); simultaneously with the fracturing of the formation, or immediately thereafter, introducing a second portion of a relatively small particulate propping agent (16) into expanded pre-existing small flow conduits and into any new small flow conduits that are formed by the fracturing of the formation; and reducing the hydraulic pressure on the formation, whereby the small flow conduits are held open by propping agent particles.

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